

## **2018-2019 Provost's General Education Course Enhancement Grant Competition**

*Teach what excites you! Connect your discipline and expertise with General Education!*

The General Education Course Enhancement Grant Competition is designed to promote the ongoing enhancement of UConn's General Education curriculum through the development of new courses or course revisions.

### **Priorities of this year's competition**

In an effort to improve course availability in particular areas of the curriculum, we encourage proposals addressing priorities listed below. *Please note, however, that proposals for any General Education course development will be considered and will be favorably viewed if other evaluation criteria are met.*

#### 1) Integration

General Education can do more than expose students to diverse subject matter and make them "well-rounded." General Education courses can help to make connections so that students can integrate what they are learning in different subject areas, with service learning and extracurricular activities, and with their lives outside the University. With this year's competition, we encourage proposers to submit courses that devote substantial attention to developing such connections. While such connections are made in interdisciplinary courses, we are most interested in courses offered by faculty with expertise in discipline-specific topics who will place these topics in broader contexts.

#### 2) Environmental Literacy

Following the University Senate's approval of a definition for Environmental Literacy<sup>1</sup>, and pending approval of the implementation piece of the Environmental Literacy Task Force's report<sup>2</sup>, the GEOC invites proposers to submit innovative new courses or innovative revisions to existing courses that incorporate environmental literacy. Note that incorporating environmental literacy could involve revising current CA1, CA2, CA3, CA4, Q or W courses.

### **Approvals**

All proposals require department head or program director approval. Note that receiving a Provost's General Education Course Enhancement Grant *does not* guarantee approval of the course by GEOC or other curriculum committees; all General Education course action requests must still be submitted and approved by one or more departments, schools or colleges, GEOC, the Senate Curricula and Courses Committee, and the University Senate.

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental Literacy (EL) courses provide students with the ability to understand, and articulate perspectives on, the interactions between human society and the natural world, as well as the challenges of environmental stewardship. A course from any disciplinary area may satisfy the EL requirement, provided that it focuses throughout on one or more of the following:

1. theories, observations, or models of how humans impact the health and well-being of the natural world;
2. theories, observations, or models of how the natural world affects human health and well-being;
3. public policies, legal frameworks, and/or other social systems that affect the environment;
4. moral and/or ethical dimensions regarding the environment;
5. cultural, creative, or artistic representations of human-environment interactions

<sup>2</sup> Students must pass at least three credits of coursework in Environmental Literacy that may be counted towards the major.

Courses that meet the definition of EL will be identified in the catalog with the letter "E" following the course number.

As is currently the case for courses in Content Area 4 and the Writing competency, EL courses may have prerequisites or corequisites that are not General Education courses.

An EL course may be approved for and count for one Content Area or two Content Areas if one is Content Area 4.

Students must pass at least seven courses in Content Areas and EL of at least three credits each for a total of at least 21 credits. However, up to three credits of repeatable one-credit courses may be included in Content Areas One and Four.

## **Awards**

Awards are for one year and may vary from \$1,000 to \$7,500 per proposal. The award may be applied to buyout of semester salary, summer salary, course-related expenses, or to a faculty member's ledger 2 research account. This amount is inclusive of fringe benefits and a budget form is required to justify proposed expenses. If additional funding is needed, awardees may reapply to the competition for the same course within two academic years of their first award, i.e. a proposer who is awarded in AY 2018-19 can reapply in AY 2019-20 or AY 2020-21.

## **Proposal Deadline**

November 9, 2018

## **Who May Apply**

Regular tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure-track faculty from any University of Connecticut campus may apply. This program is open to faculty in all disciplines.

An application may be submitted by one or more individuals, but must have the written commitment of support, including teaching assistantships if required, of a sponsoring program or department. The department(s) must agree to offer the course every year or every other year for at least five years at one or more of the UConn campuses.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

The proposal may focus on significantly enhancing the content or pedagogy of an existing course or developing a new course. It should very clearly explain how the course meets UConn's broad goals of general education as well as the specific criteria for the given content area(s) (Arts & Humanities; Social Sciences; Science & Technology; Diversity & Multiculturalism), competencies (W, Q), and/or literacies (E) as described in UConn's General Education Guidelines [geoc.uconn.edu/geoc-guidelines/](http://geoc.uconn.edu/geoc-guidelines/).

Proposals will be judged on the following main criteria: clarity of the project's objectives; relevance of the objectives for the General Education curriculum, both the overall purpose of the curriculum as well as the criteria specific to the Content Area, competency, or literacy; enhancement of the General Education curriculum; innovative or creative elements; potential for serving as model for significant change in General Education; plan for evaluation of student learning; appropriateness of budget. While a syllabus is not required, any specifics regarding course design are helpful in considering the fit of the project to criteria. Other criteria that will be viewed favorably in judging proposals are availability on regional campuses, open to non-majors, large classes, and those that are directed at the priorities of Integration and/or Environmental Literacy. Lists of winners and examples of successful proposals from previous competitions can be found at [geoc.uconn.edu/course-development-grant-competition/](http://geoc.uconn.edu/course-development-grant-competition/).

## **Proposal Format and Submission**

Please follow the required proposal format, which can be found at <http://geoc.uconn.edu/course-development-grant-competition/>. Each proposal should include 1) a three (3) page (at least 12 point font, 1 inch margins) description of the project, including a clear statement of the project's relation to General Education requirements (broad and specific), course objectives (including student learning outcomes), a plan for the assessment of student learning optionally, a preliminary syllabus, reading list, etc.; 2) a budget form that gives a reasonably detailed explanation of how funds will be used, including whether there is an additional source of support for course development; and, 3) a statement of support from the appropriate program director(s) or department head(s) [an email is fine]. An electronic copy of the proposal should be sent to [geoc@uconn.edu](mailto:geoc@uconn.edu) with the Subject Line "Provost's General Education Course Enhancement Grant."

### **Evaluation Committee**

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of faculty and representatives from GEOC subcommittees, The Instructional Design and Development Group in the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and a pool of previous competition winners.

### **Requirements for Awarded Proposals**

Faculty who receive funding for their proposal will be required to attend the awards reception for current winners, submit a Curriculum Action Request (CAR) form and full syllabus for the course approval process, attend a GEOC meeting to report on course progress, and submit a final report by the specified deadline.

Awardees will also be encouraged to avail themselves of Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning resources in instructional design.

### **Timetable**

Nov. 9, 2018	Submission Deadline
Dec. 2018	Awards announced
Jan. 2019	Funding for any supply requests paid out to awardees
May/June 2019	Summer salary paid out to awardees who requested it
Sept./Oct. 2019	Course Action Request forms submitted to GEOC
March 2020	Progress report due
Spring or Fall 2020	Course taught for the first time
April 2021	Final report due

### **Contact**

For further information, contact Eric Schultz (Chair, General Education Oversight Committee) at [eric.schultz@uconn.edu](mailto:eric.schultz@uconn.edu) or (860) 486-4692